

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated February 11, 2008 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claim 9 has been amended. Claims 1-8 and 17-21 have been withdrawn from consideration as the result of the earlier restriction requirement. No new matter has been added. Claims 9-16 remain pending in this application. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration in view of the remarks presented herein below.

Claims 9-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,252,247 to Sakata et al. ("Sakata") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,219,125 to Ishikura et al. ("Ishikura"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections as being based upon references that neither teach nor suggest the combination of features recited by independent claim 9, as amended, and hence dependent claims 10-16.

With respect to independent claim 9, as amended, Applicants respectfully submit that Sakata and Ishikura fails to teach or suggest the claimed combination including at least a feature of "forming a copper compound layer directly on a substrate; forming a copper layer directly on the copper compound layer; and forming a signal line by etching the copper compound layer and the copper layer, wherein a top surface of the copper layer has a narrower width than a top surface of the copper compound layer and the copper layer is thicker than the copper compound layer," as recited by independent claim 9. Accordingly, claim 9 and its dependent claims 10-16 are allowable over the cited references.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Application No.: 10/705,914
Amendment dated May 9, 2008
Response to Office Action dated February 11, 2008

Docket No.: 8733.894.00

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

Dated: May 9, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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